

Amendments to the claims

1 – 17 (Canceled)

18. (Presently amended) The tooth according to claim ~~17~~ 25 wherein the shank includes a circumferentially extending groove and a spring clip engaging the groove for the purpose of providing a compressive fit of the tooth in the corresponding hole in a block.

19. (Presently amended) The tooth according to claim ~~17~~ 25 wherein the cutting face surface comprises a hardened carbide steel insert.

20. (Presently amended) The tooth according to claim ~~17~~ 25 wherein the shank is cylindrical and has an axis that forms a 90° angle with respect to the shoulder.

21. (Presently amended) The tooth according to claim ~~20~~ 25 wherein the cutting surface includes a carbide steel insert that is joined to the tooth by brazing.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Presently amended) The tooth according to claim ~~22~~ 25 wherein the shank forms an angle of about 45° with respect to the cutting face of the tooth.

24. (Presently amended) The tooth according to claim ~~17~~ 25 wherein the shank includes a circumferentially extending groove and a spring pin engaging the groove for the purpose of securing of the tooth in the corresponding hole in a block.

25. (New) A tooth to be removably engaged with a block on the circumference of a cutting wheel, said block including a top and two sides, the tooth comprising:

a) a planar cutting surface adapted to form an angle generally orthogonal to a side or the top of said block when the tooth is engaged therewith,

b) a shank to be inserted into a corresponding hole in the block, said shank having a free end, and an abutment end, the abutment end terminating in a shoulder adapted to cooperate with the block to serve as a stop to limit the movement of the shank into the block, and

c) an extension projecting rearwardly of the cutting surface and adapted to rest against the side or the top surface of a block when the tooth is inserted into the block, said extension serving to provide a support for the tooth when in use.